

Syracuse VA Medical Center 800 Irving Ave. Syracuse, NY 13210

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 8, 2013 For More Information Robert McLean, VAMC, PAO 315-425-2422 (O) 315-575-0722 Mobile

## **Calling All Veteran Artists**

**Syracuse, NY**-The Syracuse VA Medical Center invites all Veterans to participate in the Annual Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Exhibition. This year's event will be held at the Delavan Art Gallery on March 14<sup>th</sup>, as well as the Everson Museum of Art on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The artwork will be on display throughout the month of March at both locations.

The competition is open to all Veteran artists enrolled in Syracuse VA Healthcare...to include those who receive their care at any one of the seven Community-Based Outpatient Clinics located in Massena, Watertown, Oswego, Rome, Auburn, Freeville and Binghamton.

Categories include music, dance, drama, creative writing, fine arts, applied arts, kit projects, leather goods, wood projects and crafts. According to VA Lead Recreational Therapist, Suzanne Hawes, "This is a contest where everyone comes out a winner. It's an opportunity to display one's talents, a chance to be recognized and, for many patients, a constructive way to promote the healing process".

To enter the event, Veterans should bring their art work to the auditorium of the Syracuse VA Medical Center, 800 Irving Avenue, on University Hill on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm or the 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-3pm.

For further information contact Suzanne Hawes at 315-425-4400-ext. 52589. More information on VA Creative Arts programs can be found at <a href="http://www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov">http://www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov</a>